

As a resident of CT and voter, I am writing to oppose SB 1148 (bear hunting) and SB 1149 (Sunday Hunting), which would authorize the killing and hunting of black bears and allow all Sunday hunting regardless of game and method on both public and private property. I oppose these inhumane and unnecessary Bills for the following reasons.

- Scientific studies prove that hunting black bears does not stop human-bear conflicts, according to the Humane Society, “Many states claim, in defiance of empirical evidence and multiple scientific studies, that bears must be hunted to contain their populations or stop human-bear conflicts. Even though hunting bears can ravage bear families and disrupt ecosystems, state wildlife agencies keep giving trophy hunters the green light to recklessly “manage” those populations through killing bears.” Why would the state of Connecticut encourage and support this completely unnecessary and ineffective method? They should be supporting protection of our wildlife which is continuously being driven out of their natural environment due to over building and humans encroaching on their habitat.
- People should learn to live responsibly and take the proper precautions if you live near Black Bears. If you own livestock, an apiary, crops etc. Protect it with electric fencing, which is not that expensive. Do not leave food outside, enclose garbage cans until the day of garbage pickup. They are animal proof garbage cans. Remove bird feeders, etc. Killing the black bears has not been proven to reduce the problem. The community should be educated to learn how to better co-exist with the black bears.
- Cubs stay with their mothers for one and a half years, those that are given license to hunt the bears are not going to discriminate between a female and male bear and could kill a mother who would leave the cubs orphaned and they would be unable to survive on their own. Thereby causing suffering and most likely death to her cubs. Again, this is cruel and unnecessary.
- Black Bears are naturally shy and avoid humans. It’s rare for a black bear to cause physical harm to a human or a pet.

Thank you,

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